

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00790 141901Z

47 41
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INR-07 L-03 A-01

SS-15 /044 W

----- 013479

R 141543Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8179

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NASSAU 0790

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, BF
SUBJ: CIVAIR: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PRECLEARANCE FACILITY
FOR FREEPORT

REF: (A) 75 NASSAU 1514 (B) NASSAU 765

1. EMBASSY EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FORMAL GCOB REQUEST FOR USG APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRECLEARANCE FACILITY FOR FREEPORT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND AVIATION HAS ALREADY APPROVED THE PROPOSAL AND CABINET IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE IT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE IF IT HAS NOT DONE SO ALREADY.
2. THE REASON FOR THE SUDDEN MOVEMENT ON THE FREEPORT FACILITY STEMS FROM THE CHANGE IN TOP MANAGEMENT OF GRAND BAHAMA DEVCO. THE EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED THAT DEVCO REACHED A DECISION THREE WEEKS AGO TO PROVIDE THE FINANCING FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF THE FREEPORT AIRPORT, I.E. PRECLEARANCE FACILITY, A NEW TRANSIT LOUNGE AND LENGTHENING OF THE RUNWAY. DEVCO HAS AGREED TO PUT UP DOLS 1.5 MILLION FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS.
3. REFTTEL (A) DISCUSSES PROBLEMS THAT A PRECLEARANCE FACILITY IN FREEPORT WOULD POST FOR USG INTERESTS IN GENERAL AND THE EMBASSY IN PARTICULAR. FOR EXAMPLE, PROBLEMS OF ASSURING THAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00790 141901Z

ACTIONS BY PRECLEARANCE PERSONNEL ARE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER USG

INTERESTS IN THE BAHAMAS IF NO STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL IS PERMANENTLY PRESENT IN FREEPORT, AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY'S PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR SUCH A UNIT GIVEN OUR CURRENT STAFFING. IN ADDITION TO THESE PROBLEMS THE LACK OF ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT NASSAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE USG MAKES A DECISION REGARDING APPROVAL OF A FACILITY FOR FREEPORT. THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING A DETAILED TELEGRAM ON THE SECURITY PROBLEM THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF WHICH IS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO FORMALLY ADVISE THE GCOB THAT PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE SO BAD THAT OUR PEOPLE CANNOT CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS ENVISIONED IN THE PRECLEARANCE AGREEMENT.

4. EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT ONCE GCOB FORMAL REQUEST FOR APPROVAL IS MADE WE WILL RECEIVE GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE FROM GCOB, AIRLINES AND FREEPORT GROUP FOR A RAPID POSITIVE USG RESPONSE. A NEGATIVE RESPONSE COULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL IMPACT AS USG APPROVAL IS CONSIDERED BY BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' INVOLVED AS PROFORMA, IN SPITE OF INFORMAL EMBASSY CAUTIONING TO THE CONTRARY, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRECLEARANCE FACILITY IN FREEPORT IS BELIEVED TO BE A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN REVITALIZING THE FREEPORT ECONOMY. IN FACT WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT PRECLEARANCE UNIT IN FREEPORT IS LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL AND MORE-OVER IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF EFFORTS TO GET FREEPORT MOVING ECONOMICALLY AND THUS WE DO NOT WISH TO DISCOURAGE SUCH EFFORTS. NEVERTHELESS, APPROVAL WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION TOO PROBLEMS RAISED BY EMBASSY WOULD ALSO HAVE SERIOUS OPERATIONAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT WHICH OVER THE LONG RUN COULD CAUSE US MUCH GRIEF. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE THEREFORE IS TO SUGGEST THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PROBLEMS CITED IN REFTEL (A) IN ANTICIPATION OF GCOB REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT TO FREEPORT PRECLEARANCE UNIT.

WEISS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CONSTRUCTION, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NASSAU00790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760187-0285
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760554/aaaabtqu.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 NASSAU 1514, 76 NASSAU 765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PRECLEARANCE FACILITY FOR FREEPORT
TAGS: EAIR, BF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006